

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the Abstract presently in the patent application and replace with the following:

94 ---An alpha brass (copper/zinc alloy with less than 39%, by weight, of zinc) stock alloy has controlled additions of nickel, tin and phosphorous. Following these additions, the alloy has, by weight, between 5% and 25% zinc, between 0.3% and 2% of nickel, between 0.15% and 1% of tin, between 0.03% and 0.35% of phosphorous and the balance is copper and inevitable impurities. The amounts of nickel and phosphorous are controlled such that there is a nickel to phosphorous weight ratio of between 3.5:1 and 7.5:1. When the alloy is reduced to a strip of a desired thickness by a combination of cold rolling steps and in process anneals, a fine microstructure is achieved with a uniform dispersion of fine nickel phosphide particles. These nickel phosphide particles lead to an increase in both strength and electrical conductivity of the alloy. As a result, spring contacts formed from alloys of the invention maintain a higher percentage of initially imposed stress at elevated temperatures, in the range of 125°C to 150°C for significantly longer times than other brass alloys of comparable strength.---

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to clarify a portion of the description of the processing of the alloy.

Claim 1 has been amended to more precisely claim the zinc and nickel contents of the claimed alloy as well as to recite a preferred nickel to phosphorous weight ratio. This weight ratio originally appeared in claim 2 that has now been cancelled.

The dependencies of claims 3-6 have been changed from claim 2 to claim 1. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to remove a phrase that the Examiner deemed indefinite.

The Examiner requested restriction between the claims of group I, claims 1-14, drawn to a copper base alloy product and classified in class 148, subclass 433+ and the claims of group II (claims